

KEY RILES SENATORS

Navy Officer Said to Be Discourteous.

PRESIDENT THEIR BACKER!

Senators believe Executive is supporting adverse criticism of Navy and his attitude encourages opposition to the Committee-Witness criticizes the Committee.

Commander A. L. Key, formerly naval aid to President Roosevelt, had a stormy time yesterday testifying before the Senate Naval Committee.

Senators plainly thought he was disrespectful to the committee, both in his language and in his manner. The subject was discussed during the committee's executive session, and the understanding was reached, it is said, that the commander will hear plain talk if he persists to-day in the same defiant conduct.

The difficulty grew largely out of Commander Key's determination to offer secondary evidence to prove that the armor belts and the gun decks on war ships are too low. Senators insisted that the commander should not quote what other officers had said, but that those officers should, in justice to themselves, be called in person. The commander showed much pique at this, and announced sternly that he did not wish to be interrupted. During the hearing Commander W. S. Sims, with whom Commander Key agrees, called him by telephone.

Senators Blame President. Some questions as to Commander Key's testimony were finally reserved for an executive session of the committee. The commander, however, showed an unwillingness to leave the room, and, much to the disgust of the Senators, kept them waiting several hours. He finally put on his overcoat with great deliberation, apparently taking as much time as he could, and marched out. Senators claim that the President is supporting these officers in their contention, which explains their attitude of disrespect to the committee.

Capt. C. McR. Winslow, assistant chief of the Navigation Bureau, was the first witness before the committee yesterday. He was followed by Commander Keys. Both officers expressed the belief that the armor belt on American battle ships was too low. It was his opinion that the armor belt on American battle ships was too low. It was his opinion that the armor belt on American battle ships was too low. It was his opinion that the armor belt on American battle ships was too low.

Commander Key said he wished to show that the evidence given by Admiral Capps was in error, as he thought he would be able to prove that the armor belt on American battle ships was too low. It was his opinion that the armor belt on American battle ships was too low. It was his opinion that the armor belt on American battle ships was too low.

Mr. Hale instructed the witness that the committee would pass upon the question of error itself in the review of the examination of witnesses. The witness would please confine his testimony to what he knew from experience or observation of armor belt and turret hoists. The committee did not wish to go into comparisons of old ships, such as the Keokuk and Massachusetts. Their models were not followed in the new design.

Commander Key read a report of the Construction Bureau of 1896, approved by the Secretary of the Navy, as a basis for his testimony. It recommended the armor belt on a practical low water line; that is, a line established by the nominal load that a ship carried. It said that to fit the armor belt line by a process of structural design was to make the line fictitious.

Commander Key was of the opinion that this order had not been changed, but, nevertheless, successive construction bureaus had not followed the principle, and the line was established in design on a fictitious basis.

Finds Fault with Committee. Commander Key protested against the action of the committee in allowing Rear Admiral Capps, chief constructor, to be present and cross-examine witnesses and then deny to other witnesses the privilege of reviewing and criticizing the testimony of the chief constructor. He even attempted to submit data to show that the testimony of Rear Admiral Capps was incorrect.

"We will not receive that now," interrupted Senator Hale. "I think it is important to the committee," suggested Commander Key. Mr. Tillman inquired whether the matter was in proper form to be presented, and expressed the opinion that it ought to be received.

Mr. Martin, of Virginia, objected to allowing any witness to "review or correct the testimony of another witness." He said it was unjust and extraordinary.

"Are you certain of your facts?" inquired Mr. Tillman. "Did you look the matter up yourself, or is it hearsay?" "It's straight goods," replied Commander Key. "It is important that the committee hear me."

"The committee cannot hear you now," interrupted Chairman Hale, "the members will hold an executive session to settle this matter."

Commander Key was insistent, and Mr. Perkins, of California, backed up his demand by saying that the committee ought not to exclude anything. Mr. Hale would not change his position and the views of Commander Key were not further developed.

Winslow's Opinions Decided. Capt. Winslow had decided opinions. The armor belt was too low and the hoists dangerous.

"On what ships have you had experience?" asked Mr. Hale. "On the Keokuk and Indiana."

"Do you know anything about the new ships of your own knowledge?" "I have not seen the shutter in operation in the turret hoists."

"What kind of hoists do you consider best, direct or stage?" "I do not think the kind of hoist makes any difference. What is wanted is a safe hoist."

Capt. Winslow said the accident on the Massachusetts in 1902, when every man in the turret was killed, had been predicted. "Who predicted it?" asked Mr. Tillman. "Well, Commander Sims had reported that burning powder would fall down, and had written me a letter to that effect as early as 1902."

Capt. Winslow was asked by Senator Perkins when he had formed his opinion of the armor belt placement being too low. He had always had that opinion, he said. He had not been influenced by criticisms recently published. In fact, he had not been reading them closely.

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Senator McLaughlin, of Mississippi, addressed the Senate in support of the bill. He objected to the policy of depositing money in national banks, and advocated the issue of circulating notes on cotton in place of collateral. Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, gave notice that he would address the Senate Thursday, at the close of morning business, on the financial bill.

Senator Carter, of Montana, called up and had passed a bill repealing a section in the last session public buildings bill by which certain valuable government lands in the District of Columbia were ceded to Sidney Bieber, of this city.

HOUSE.

Resolution regarding the burial of victims of the blowing up of the battle ship Maine, was passed.

General debate on Post-office appropriation bill, in Committee of the Whole, was resumed. After conclusion of general debate discussion of bill was resumed, under the five-minute rule, prevailed.

At 5:30 the committee arose, and the House adjourned until today at noon.

FINISH BROWNSVILLE REPORT.

Senate Committee Prepares to Submit Decision on Shooting.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs, in executive session yesterday, considered the report on the Brownsville shooting affray. It is the understanding that the report will be submitted to the Senate to-day or tomorrow.

Members of the committee declined to discuss the conclusions reached before the report is made to the Senate.

DISCUSS PROHIBITION TO-DAY.

House District Committee to Have Public Hearing on Question.

Public hearings on the much-discussed question of prohibition in the District will begin this morning in the southwest corner of the room on the second floor of the new House office building.

It is expected that the interest in the matter of prohibition will bring quite a number of people, anxious to give testimony, to the hearings.

HE BLAMES THE REPUBLICANS

Senator McLaughlin Says They Caused Recent Money Panic.

Extravagance of Government Responsible, in His Opinion-Wants Cotton-basis Currency.

Senator McLaughlin, of Mississippi, addressed the Senate yesterday on the Aldrich currency bill. He expressed the opinion that the Republican party was primarily responsible for the recent panic. He accused the Republicans of spending money too freely. He said the fleet was sent around to the Pacific at great expense to scare the Japanese unnecessarily, and permit the navy officers to witness a few bill fights.

Mr. McLaughlin condemned the New York City banks for excessive loans. "The government should not lend money," said he, "but now that it has embarked upon the policy, the government ought not to lend to banks, and refuse to lend to farmers and manufacturers."

The Senator condemned the proposal of his Democratic colleagues to guarantee depositors in national banks. He concluded with a strong demand that the government issue Treasury certificates on cotton.

"It is a more stable basis for circulation than railroad or municipal bonds," said the Senator from Mississippi. "Nothing can coax gold from his hiding in Europe quicker than cotton."

"Why not pig iron?" inquired Senator Beveridge, of Indiana.

"Why not wool?" demanded Senator Perkins, of California. "I come from a wool-growing State."

Mr. McLaughlin insisted, however, that cotton was the only staple upon which an emergency circulation could properly be based.

Senator Aldrich, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and author of the pending currency bill, had another conference with the President at the White House yesterday.

Mr. Aldrich has not been accustomed to visit the White House except by invitation. It is known that the President is taking a keen interest in the Aldrich bill, and that he has urged a number of Senators to vote for the measure, or at least for the measure recognizing railroad and other bonds as a basis of emergency currency.

IT WILL RAIN MONEY.

And as for Checks, You May Pick Them Out Trees.

A freak currency bill was thrown into the legislative hopper yesterday by Representative Fulton, of Oklahoma. Mr. Fulton has no prior of paternity in this particular bill. He introduced it "by request."

It is entitled "A bill to establish a national banking system in fact, not simply in name."

The measure in question provides that a national bank shall be placed in every town and village in the United States having a bona fide population of 200 citizens. County banks, numerous banks in large cities, great State banks, and, finally, a great central national bank, to be located in Washington, are to be established.

It is further provided that the officers of the banks thus created shall be elected by the people voting at elections held for that purpose. Officers so chosen shall be qualified as the law may direct, and shall hold their offices for four years from the date of the election of the President of the United States.

The currency to be issued by these banks, it is provided, shall be guaranteed by the general government, and shall be made full legal tender in payment of all debts, both public and private, except the debts already incurred by the general government and the several States.

Changes in Police Force?

The Commissioners have approved the recommendations for appointments made by Maj. Sylvester, superintendent of police, which provide that the following changes be made in the police force: Leonard D. Mahan, William C. Young, Hugh H. Groves, Leo Murray, Leonard Gaskins to be privates or class 1; vice H. W. Kelly, resigned, and C. C. Wise, H. A. Cole, promoted. These appointments will take effect March 10.

Approve Witherspoon Memorial.

The Senate yesterday passed a joint resolution proposing to provide in this city a site and a pedestal for a statue of John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, which the Witherspoon Memorial Association will erect.

Oppose Street Car Line.

Twenty-eight property owners residing on Madison street, between Brightwood avenue and Colorado avenue, yesterday notified the House District Committee that they do not favor the construction of an electric railway line on that street.

CUTS GORDIAN KNOT

Superannuated Cared for in Proposed Law.

IS FAVORED BY CONGRESSMEN

Bills Introduced Yesterday to Care for Retired Government Employees Said to Embody All Essential Ideas for Placing Big Expense on Uncle Sam for Civil Service Pensions.

Two bills, identical in character and both aimed at the practical solution of the ever-vexing problem of the care of superannuated clerks in the departments of the government, were introduced in Congress yesterday, when the House Committee on Pensions and the Civil Service also considered means of cutting this Gordian knot.

The method of caring for the old clerks, as proposed in the legislation introduced yesterday, will, it is understood, effectually provide for all old clerks without putting upon the government the burden of a civil service pension fund.

These measures, which are practically the same as the one recommended by the Keap Commission, are practical, and will, it is believed, receive the support of both branches of Congress. It was pointed out in this connection that the scheme of Herbert D. Brown, a former employee of the Department of Commerce and Labor—which was for all intents that recommended by the Keap Commission—obviates, after a certain number of years, the necessity of any considerable amount of government aid.

Question Has Interfered. This question of government aid, or rather government pensions, has always interfered with the passage of a bill which had a similar end in view. With a model bill once brought before Congress, and with influential members in favor of its passage, it is said that the matter will ultimately be solved along the lines laid out in the Keap Commission's report and in the bills referred to.

The hearings of the committee were devoted principally to the testimony of Mr. Brown. The committee seemed to be much in favor of the speedy solution of the question of the care of the old government clerks and will take up the work of finding a solution to-day.

The bills were introduced by Representative Gillett, of Massachusetts, and Senator Perkins, of California. The first section of the Gillett bill reads as follows:

"That beginning with the first day of July next, following the passage of this act, there shall be deducted and withheld from the monthly salary pay compensation of every officer or employee of the United States to whom this act applies an amount which will be sufficient to interest thereon at a rate of 4 per centum compounded annually, to purchase from the United States under the provision of this act, an annuity for every such employee, on arrival of the age of retirement, as hereinafter provided, equal to 1/2 per centum of his annual salary, pay, or compensation for every full year of service."

A major fraction thereof, between the date of the passage of the act and the arrival of the employee at the age of retirement. The deductions hereby provided for shall be based on such annuity table as the Secretary of the Treasury may direct, and interest at the rate of 4 per centum per annum, compounded annually, and shall be varied to correspond to any change in the salary of the employee."

To Invest the Money.

The Secretary of the Treasury is directed to invest the money thus secured in government bonds, State or municipal bonds or railroad securities answering certain definite requirements as to interest, dividends, and general value. Any deficiency in the fund thus created to carry out the provisions of the act is to be paid out of the treasury.

On the retirement of an employee the money he has saved, with the interest, may be drawn out of the treasury in one sum or as a quarterly annuity through life or as a quarterly annuity with the balance at death to go to the estate or as a quarterly annuity for a certain limited term of years. An employee who leaves the service is entitled to withdraw his savings with interest.

The retirement age is sixty years for employees in group 1, sixty-five years in group 2, and seventy years in group 3, and the President is empowered to designate the branches of the service to be included in each group.

In addition to the amount already provided from his own contributions the retired employee is given in the bill for the remainder of his life an annuity equal to 1 per cent for group 1, 1 1/4 per cent for group 2, and 1 1/2 per cent for group 3 of his average salary for the last five years of service for every year he shall have been in the service prior to the passage of the act. In cases where the salary of an employee is more than \$2,500 the annuity is to be calculated on a basis of \$2,500.

The sum of \$50,000 is carried in the bill to pay the expense of carrying it into effect the act of the fiscal year of 1909. The Secretary of the Treasury is empowered to keep all necessary tables, records, compute the various annuities and amounts to be deducted from salaries and to otherwise carry out the provisions of the act. The act is made to apply to all executive civil service employees, except persons appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate and unskilled laborers.

Burial for Maine Victims.

The House Committee on Naval Affairs yesterday reported favorably the Sulzer resolution, whereby the Secretary of the Navy is requested to send to the House all letters and data as to the cost and legal status under which the United States may exercise immediate or future action for the removal of the wreck of the battle ship Maine and to provide burial for the dead now lying in the bulk in the harbor of Havana.

Want Complete Crop Report. After the Cabinet meeting yesterday Secretary Wilson announced that George K. Holmes, chief of the division of foreign markets in the Department of Agriculture, will represent this country as a delegate to the International Agricultural Congress, to be held in Rome this spring. The object of the congress is to try to arrange with the nations of the world for complete crop reports.

Pratt Going to New Mexico. Walter S. Pratt, sr., of the firm of A. S. Pratt & Sons, will leave today for Albuquerque, N. Mex., where he has been summoned to testify in a case brought by the United States. On his return trip he will visit relatives in Mayville, Ky. He will be absent from the city for about three weeks.

Five Tons of Silver. Nelson, British Columbia, March 10.—To-day the largest shipment of silver ever made in Canada left the Consolidated Mining and Smelter Company's plant, at Trail, en route to the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, at Hongkong. The special consisted of 16,300 lbs. of ounces, of nearly \$30,000 value. The bullion weighed nearly five tons.

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PRESS GALLERY—No. 38.



Photo. by Harlan-Dwight. LOUIS GARTHE, Baltimore American.

Mr. Garthe has been Washington correspondent of the Baltimore American since 1887. He is a native of Baltimore, and a graduate of Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Garthe filled various positions on several Baltimore papers until 1888, when he established the Baltimore American office in New York City. The following year he went to Rome with Cardinal Gibbons to report the investiture of the newly made cardinal, and on his return was placed in charge of the Washington bureau of the American. He is a fluent writer on politics and all current topics, and is thoroughly familiar with the politics of Maryland.

Mr. Garthe traveled extensively in Cuba and the West Indies as a staff correspondent for his paper, his stories from those places being of great interest, describing in a pleasing way the customs of the near neighbors to the United States.

He is the efficient treasurer of the Gridiron Club.

HAYES HOISTS JOLLY ROGERS

Rude Rebellion Stalks About House Cloak Rooms.

Californian Leads in an Assault on Speaker Cannon and Powerful Rules Committee.

A serious revolt against the leadership of the House, which has determined that this shall be a "do nothing" Congress, is threatened.

The insurgents are led by Representative Hayes, who is known as "Red Hayes" out in California. Mr. Hayes wants the rules so amended that the House will be its own master, instead of being subject, as he says, to the whim of Speaker Cannon, and the Committee on Rules.

Mr. Hayes began to-day to circulate a petition, calling for a caucus of Republicans, at which radical changes in the House rules shall be considered. He has a concrete plan to offer as follows: 1. That the Committee on Rules shall be elected by the House; the Speaker to be ineligible for membership. 2. The committees of the House to elect their own chairmen.

3. There shall be the call of the committee twice a week, when the chairman may ask for the passage of bills on calendar, unless the House decides otherwise.

If Mr. Hayes succeeds in getting fifty signatures to his petition a caucus will be held. If he fails and Speaker Cannon and his lieutenants are working to this end—there will be no caucus as proposed by the lively member from California.

Representative Hayes came to Washington at the beginning of the session with a bill in his pocket providing for the exclusion of Japanese. He introduced it promptly and the measure was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Notice was given Mr. Hayes that no action would be taken on his Japanese Exclusion bill.

Mr. Hayes was interested in a number of other measures, but he soon found out that there was literally nothing doing. Mr. Hayes wants to do things and he expressed confidence yesterday that he would have little trouble in getting a sufficient number of signatures to his petition to force a caucus of the entire Republican membership.

Mr. Hayes has encountered the cold eye of the Speaker when he rose in his chair and asked for recognition without getting permission to do so in advance, and in his opinion the House has ceased to be a representative body.

MUST EXAMINE PATIENTS.

Ex-soldiers and Sailors in Hospital to Be Brought to Court.

Representative Cox, of Indiana, yesterday introduced a bill to provide for inquests into the sanity of honorably discharged soldiers or sailors admitted to the Government Hospital for the Insane.

The bill provides that the superintendent of the hospital shall, immediately after its passage, certify to the United States attorney for the District the names of all such soldier and sailor inmates of the hospital, who have been received on request, certificate, or transfer from the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, or from the Soldiers' Home, at Washington. The United States attorney is then to begin lunacy proceedings in the supreme court of the District to determine the sanity or insanity of such persons whose mental qualities have not been determined by some proceeding previous to admission.

The bill further provides that no deductions are to be made from pensions of ex-soldiers for care at the Government Hospital for the Insane.

Capt. Goodale Retired. Capt. George L. Goodale, quartermaster, has been placed on the retired list of the army with the rank of major. He received advanced rank under the act of Congress making such provision for officers who served in the civil war.

Maj. Goodale is a native of Massachusetts, and was retired on reaching his sixty-fourth birthday.

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FEARS FIRE'S SWEEP

Treasury Records Not Safe, Says Cortelyou.

SCORES DELAY OF CONGRESS

Hall of Records' Building Imperative—Ground for It Is Owned by Government—Tentative Plans Have Been Drawn—Legislators Have Been Asked Yearly for Appropriation.

Fear that the valuable public documents of